

Louise Line

A periodic update from the front lines in Congress

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www.louise.house.gov

News in Congress

Providing Relief for Former Atomic Workers

In the 1940's and 50's, dozens of factories in WNY produced nuclear materials for the U.S. military. Workers at these facilities were not properly protected from radiation, and many of the sites remained contaminated long after nuclear production stopped. Hundreds of workers became ill, and many died, from exposure to radioactive material.

Louise has been fighting in Congress to bring long-overdue federal compensation to these workers and their families. The House recently passed a bill that included Louise's legislation to expand the federal compensation program and require the government to do a follow-up study of WNY facilities where information was insufficient to determine if workers were exposed to residual radioactive contamination. Click [here](#) for more information.

Protecting Military Women

The U.S. House recently passed a measure authored by Louise that requires the Pentagon to create a comprehensive policy to prevent and respond to sexual assault in the military. These provisions represent some one of the most sweeping reforms dealing with the problem of assault and violence against military women. Click [here](#) for a press release on her amendment.

Niagara Falls Airbase

Louise and her WNY colleagues have secured \$14 million for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The funding, passed as part of the FY 05 Defense Authorization bill, will be used to construct a new fire/crash rescue station and the establishment of a Military Entrance Processing Site. The improvements will benefit the troops, who are serving our nation around the world, as well as lessen the likelihood of the base being closed in the next round of base closures.

Renewal Communities

Louise and her colleagues successfully lobbied the House to pass a measure that will expand the Renewal Communities program in WNY. Areas in Rochester, Niagara Falls and Buffalo have been designated Renewal Communities, allowing them to take advantage of millions of dollars of tax incentives to encourage business investments, spur economic development, create new jobs and establish affordable housing. The bill passed will expand these areas, allowing more businesses and communities to participate. There are 40 Renewal Communities in the U.S., three of which are in Louise's district. To learn more, click [here](#).

Protecting Jobs in Downtown Rochester

Hickey Freeman, a high-quality suit manufacturer, has kept its headquarters in downtown Rochester for over a hundred years to fulfill its commitment to bringing jobs and investment to our community. But the company, like other tailored clothing producers in the U.S., has been struggling in recent years with high textile prices and cheap foreign imports.

The House has passed a measure sponsored by Louise that will continue a tariff reduction program that will help Hickey Freeman compete. Keeping Hickey Freeman in Rochester means keeping a thriving business and hundreds of good-paying jobs downtown. Click [here](#) for more.

Fighting for Fair Media Coverage

Louise joined her colleagues in sending a letter to Federal Communications Commissioner Michael Powell demanding an investigation into whether Sinclair Broadcasting violated federal broadcasting rules when it ordered its stations to air an anti-John Kerry program days before the election. The American public owns the airwaves, and Louise believes that Sinclair, which owns affiliates reaching 24 percent of all U.S. households, has violated federal rules requiring equal time for political candidates.

In Congress, Rep. Slaughter has sponsored the [MEDIA Act](#), which would restore the Fairness Doctrine, requiring that broadcasters present all points of view on an issue.

Stay Updated at www.louise.house.gov

Louise's [website](#) recently underwent major changes to ensure that those with low-speed Internet connection can easily access the site. The website is a one-stop shop for information on Louise's [activities](#) in Congress and in the district, community events in the [28th Congressional District](#), and includes special sections on [constituent services](#). You may also request Capitol and White House tours, purchase flags that have been flown over the Capitol, and watch Louise's recent [statements](#) on the House floor. Louise's website has been named one of the best Democratic sites by the House Administration Committee and is updated daily.

The Final Word

"It's beyond pitiful, it's beyond embarrassing. It is now in the zone of dangerous."

- U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) on the current situation in Iraq.

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